

CATALYST

<http://adamsblvd.org/catalyst-class/>

What Barriers hinder our audience?



Barrier #1

Nobody opens their mouth

Romans 10:13-17

For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent?

That is why the Scriptures say,

“How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”

But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the prophet said,

“LORD, who has believed our message?”

So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

Barrier #1 Nobody opens their mouth

The difference between
someone who **can't** express their faith and
someone who **won't** express their faith
is practically nothing.



Barrier #2

we bring the wrong Jesus

Why do we bring the wrong Jesus?

- Jesus' standards are too high
- We reject Jesus
- Jesus can be a bit much
- We never met Jesus

Barrier #2 we bring the wrong Jesus

Jesus' standards are high?

Mat 16:24-26

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?



Barrier #2 we bring the wrong Jesus

Jesus' standards are high?

Matthew 19:21-30

Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Then Peter said in reply, "See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?"

Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

Barrier #2 we bring the wrong Jesus

we reject Jesus?

Mat 8:18-22

A scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."
And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."
And Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead."

Barrier #2 we bring the wrong Jesus

we reject Jesus?

Exodus 20:18-21

Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die."



Barrier #2 we bring the wrong Jesus

we reject Jesus?

Exodus 20:18-21

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Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.” The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

Note testing is diagnostic.

This isn't a judge looking to fail you but a doctor helping to determine root causes and bring you to health.

Why do Sinners love Jesus?

Jesus loves sinners - makes sense Jesus is full of loving compassion

But why do sinners love someone who says things like:

“But I warn you—unless your righteousness *is better than* the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

... Murder, Anger, Adultery, Lust, Divorce and etc.... Matthew 5:21-32

Barrier #2 we bring the wrong Jesus

we reject Jesus?

"The Rejected stone - becomes the new foundation"

Psalms 118:22-26

The **stone that the builders rejected** has become the cornerstone.

This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

Isaiah 8:14-18

He will keep you safe.

But to Israel and Judah **HE** will be a stone that makes people stumble, a rock that makes them fall.

Barrier #2 we bring the wrong Jesus

we reject Jesus?

“The Rejected stone - becomes the new foundation”

Isaiah 28:14-17

Therefore, listen to this message from the LORD, you scoffing rulers in Jerusalem.

You boast, *“We have struck a bargain to cheat death and have made a deal to dodge the grave. The coming destruction can never touch us, for we have built a strong refuge made of lies and deception.”*

Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: “Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken.

I will test you with the measuring line of justice and the plumb line of righteousness.

Since your refuge is made of lies, a hailstorm will knock it down. Since it is made of deception, a flood will sweep it away.

Jesus - Mark 12:1-12, Matthew 21:33-46, Luke 20:9-19

Paul & Peter - Romans 9:30-33 & 1 Peter 2:4-9


**Jesus is the stone that trips up God’s insiders.
He is also the new foundation for the rest of us.**

Barrier #2 we bring the wrong Jesus

Jesus can be a bit much?

Human tendency is to remake a god in OUR image and
To worship the god we want instead of the GOD who is.

We prefer to worship a god who agrees with us and
affirms all our positions and life choices.



Jesus brings a polarizing message.
Well intentioned followers attempt to soften His edges and
update His image.

Barrier #2 we bring the wrong Jesus

We never met Jesus?

As each generations updates Jesus our imperfect translations become increasingly distorted.

Without awareness of the essence of the person of Jesus it's quite possible that the Jesus presented to us is not at all like the Jesus who walked in Galilee.



Barrier #2 we bring the wrong Message

Gal 1:6 - 9

I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ.

You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ.

Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you. I say again what we have said before: If anyone preaches any other Good News than the one you welcomed, let that person be cursed.

Barrier #2 we bring the wrong Message

Foolish Gospel vs an Un-salty Message

1 Corinthians 1:18

The message of the cross is **foolish** to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.

Matthew 5:13-16

“You are the **salt of the earth**, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Barrier #2 we bring the wrong Message

Foolish Gospel vs an Un-salty Message

Is my message foolish?

Is my message salty?

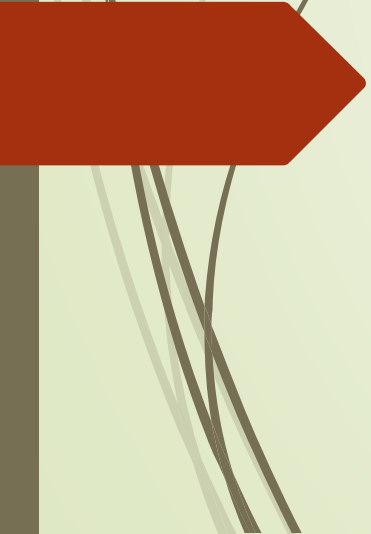


How is my message received by
a wise investor?

Barrier #2 we bring the wrong Jesus

When we lift up the real Jesus,
He will draw them to himself.

John 12:32



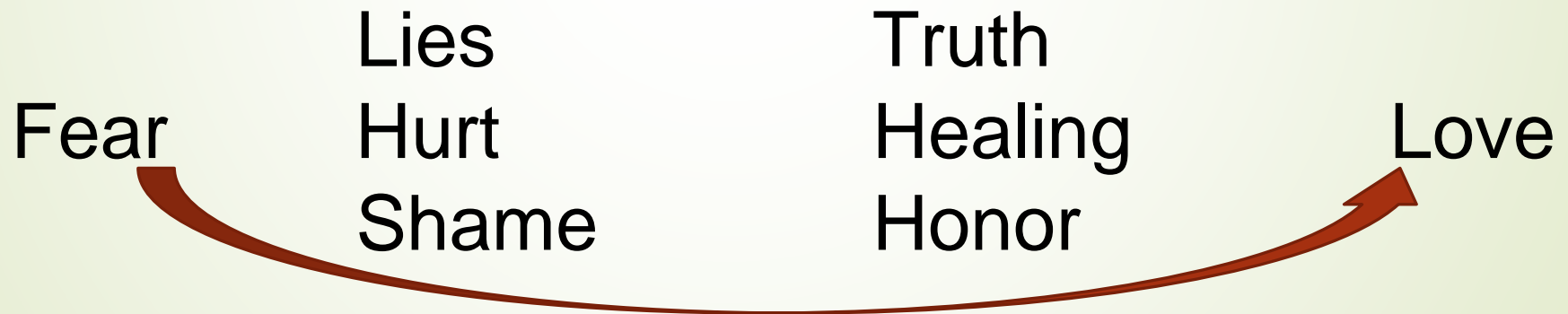
“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

Jesus

Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)

Barrier #3

their personal issues



Barrier #3 their personal issues

K M Weiland - The Lie your Characters Believe.

He is incomplete in some way, but not because he is lacking something external. A person in a prison camp can still be entirely whole and balanced on the inside, while someone floating in a Malibu mansion's swimming pool may be one miserable son of a gun.

Nope, your character is incomplete on the inside. He is harboring some deeply held misconception about either himself, the world, or, probably, both... This misconception is going to prove a direct obstacle to his ability to fulfill his plot goal. In some instances, it may start out seeming to be a strength, but as the story progresses, it will become your character's Achilles heel. Your character may not even realize he has a problem.

Barrier #3 their personal issues

K M Weiland - [The Lie your Characters Believe.](#)

The lie is connected to something the character already possesses but devalues. The person is incomplete on the inside.

- Fear
- Extreme hurt
- Inability to forgive
- Guilt
- Horrible secrets
- Shame over something done or suffered

None of these are the Lie, but they're often products of the Lie.

<https://www.helpingwritersbecomeauthors.com/character-arcs-2/>

Barrier #3 their personal issues

Brennan Manning- the ragamuffin gospel: it's not enough to believe the good news we must disbelieve the lie.



Barrier #3 their personal issues

- Physical - how our bodies feel
- Emotional - how we are feeling
- Mental - our world view and beliefs
- Spiritual - how we relate to God



Physical Emotional Mental Spiritual

Short

time scale

Long

CATALYST

<http://adamsblvd.org/catalyst-class/>